

From the Rabbi

Dear Friends,



100 Blessings a Day

I hope you enjoyed a festive and meaningful Passover, and that Dayeinu is still echoing in your ears. Dayeinu, after all, is more than a catchy tune. It represents an attitude for living. In an age that prizes perfection and urges us incessantly to want and do more, dayeinu embodies the sentiment of feeling satisfied with what we have presently and in the moment. It is a lesson in mindfulness. It instructs us to count our blessings. It helps us to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

Consider for a moment what would life be like without this approach. Consider that when the Israelites marched out of Egypt and into the wilderness, the greatest threat they faced wasn't Amalek, Pharaoh, or even thirst and starvation. The foremost threat was that of becoming covetous, expectant, and overcome by a sense of the grass being greener back in Egypt. Owing to this, they wrought for themselves serial disasters and for their dissatisfaction paid a heavy price. Only the new generation, the one born after the Exodus, would enter the Promised Land; and only their descendants would come to feel the sense of dayeinu—we are satisfied; it is enough.

Particularly in this season of joy, let's take stock not of our wants, challenges, and shortcomings (which we can save for another time), but of our many blessings as a synagogue community. We are blessed with wonderful, caring individuals. We are blessed with a talented and dedicated staff. We are blessed with a beautiful building in a pristine setting. We are blessed with a thriving religious school that is making great strides at engaging our kids and families in 21st century Jewish life. We are blessed with a robust program of activities which now includes a film festival, a family Shabbaton, and our weekly Taking Hold of Torah. We are also blessed with more uplifting and dynamic worship opportunities than perhaps ever before.

This spring and summer, please spread the good news about our special community that is known for its robust intellectual climate, its inclusiveness and diversity, its deep commitment to repairing the world and to strengthening the great city we inhabit, and its interesting, warm, kind-hearted people. Bolton Street Synagogue is a community to treasure. In this, our eleventh year in our new home, let us behold it with a sense of gratitude, blessing and, in a word, dayeinu.

Wishing you a very happy spring,

John A. Franken
Rabbi John A. Franken

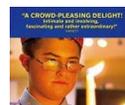
**The I's Have It:
BSS Film Festival on Themes of
Inclusivity and Israel**

4/26, 5/3, 5/10 and 5/31 – 7pm

212 W Cold Spring Ln, Baltimore, MD 21210

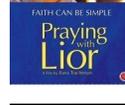
Program includes Havdalah, Food, Film and Discussion

\$5 – No one turned away for lack of funds; Childcare available*



4/26 – Praying with Lior

Praying with Lior asks whether someone with Down syndrome can be a spiritual genius. As this documentary moves to its climax, Lior must pass through the gateway to manhood. Presented by the Inclusivity Committee.



5/3 – Out in the Dark

A drama centered on the love affair between two men on opposite sites of the Mid-East conflict: Palestinian student Nimer and Roy, an Israeli lawyer. Co-sponsored by the B'more Q'Fest.



5/17 – The Flat

As a documentarian cleans out the flat that belonged to his grandparents – both immigrants from Nazi Germany – he uncovers clues pointing to a complicated and shocking story.

5/31 – The Gate Keepers

A documentary featuring interviews with all surviving former heads of Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency whose activities and membership are closely held state secrets.



* To arrange childcare, please contact Debbie Barnes (dbarnes@boltonstreet.org) 15 days prior to event.

From the President

Remembering Gayle Hafner and Stoop Stories

In recent weeks, Bolton Street Synagogue has had two events to fill the synagogue with people. Sadly, we mourned the loss of our dear friend, Gayle Hafner, who died unexpectedly several days following an emergency surgical procedure. Stoop Stories followed nearly two weeks later and was a smashing success; an evening of fun and entertainment that represented the best of what an exceptionally well-organized and motivated community of volunteer congregants can do.

Gayle Hafner

Bolton Street Synagogue knew Gayle as the lady in a wheelchair that occupied a familiar spot behind the pews towards the entrance to the sanctuary. She kept a little table in front of her for books and a familiar cane that was usually on her lap or leaning against her. She was known as a fierce advocate for the disabled and worked as an attorney for disability rights. While not born into the Jewish community, she joined the Jewish people more than 30 years ago and first became a member of Bolton Street Synagogue at our prior location on Bolton Street. Of course, our old building was built long before the Americans with Disabilities Act required public buildings to be accessible. There were stairs at the front that needed to be climbed to gain entrance to the sanctuary and no ramps or elevators. Gayle came but had to be carried into the building. Eventually, she left our community, frustrated with having to be assisted to worship with others. Of course, we outgrew our old location on Bolton Street and had plans for the new building that we currently occupy on Cold Spring Lane. Our ground level entrance, elevators between the floors, and ramps for access to the bima and classroom spaces made our new location one where Gayle could return to be a part of a community that was accessible and consistent with hers and our principles of inclusion.

So how will I remember Gayle? As President of the Synagogue, the most important aspect of synagogue life to me is our community. Gayle was omnipresent as a participant in community events. Come on a Friday night, there was Gayle. Torah study, there was Gayle. Although she had no children, she came to school assemblies and other family events that brought our community together. Indeed, I saw Gayle for the last time (other than in the hospital where the Gayle that I knew was already gone) on Purim just a few days before she became ill; costumed for fun and celebration with gaudy purple necklaces and a face mask. And, of course, she took to heart that B'nai Mitzvahs are open to our entire community. It brought a tear to my eye last June 8 when she came to my daughter Hannah's Bat Mitzvah.

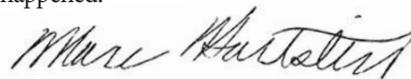
Gayle and I also spent much time together over nearly two years on the Rabbinic Search Committee. Like in everything else she did, she was passionate in her views but worked hard to help build consensus among our members with widely divergent views. And what do I most remember about her participation on the Search Committee—Gayle could really talk! At the time, Gayle's verbosity may have made me impatient, but I have realized that our idiosyncrasies make us who we are, and, in retrospect if not also at the time, that make us smile with love for one another.

And my last memory Gayle involves her devoted husband Crosby (who I later learned was known as Kinger to his and her family). Gayle would not have been such a presence in our community without Crosby who always brought her to the synagogue. Crosby rarely joined Gayle in the synagogue—the exception being the 30th anniversary of Gayle's conversion to Judaism just one year before she died—but he was just as omnipresent in the lobby or their van in the parking lot as Gayle was in our community. He patiently waited for Gayle and demonstrated sincere devotion to his wife and her interests in participation in the Bolton Street community. For his example of love and devotion and for bringing Gayle to our community, I offer my sincerest thanks to Crosby. Thank you.

In closing, I will miss Gayle. She was our congregant and friend and brought a presence to Bolton Street that was much larger than her physical being. Thank you, Gayle, for being part of our community and our lives.

Stoop Stories

On April 5, Bolton Street Synagogue was the place to be in the Baltimore Jewish community as we hosted Stoop Stories. There were huge crowds, local celebrities, great food, good music, fantastic stories and great conversation. And we raised more than a few shekels for Bolton Street's educational programs. A better time at Bolton Street Synagogue was never had before. We heard a funny and fascinating story from news anchor Deborah Weiner and several other local personalities shared interesting and amusing anecdotes on Jewish life. Bolton Street member Steve Snyder shared an amusing and terrifying story about a past experience he had. And I doubt anyone will ever have a better blind date story than Greg Abel, also a Bolton Street member. The number of people it took to make this happen was impressive and the coordination outstanding. Thank you to all who participated in making the event great (and my apologies to those I may have left out): Alyssa Sapia, Carol VanBesien, David Gerson, Debra Brown-Felser, Gary Felser, Greg Abel, Jennifer Mendelsohn, Joan Dier, Joy Mandel, Julia Pierson, Julie Gilbert, Karen Brown, Ken Karpay, Lissa Abrams, Marc Wernick, Mark Hyman, Peggy Brennecke, Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum, Jeannette Karpay, Paul Levine, Hannah Hartstein, Chris Hartstein, Max Gadsden, Ben Nehl, Tim Nehl, Jaime Savage, Sam Weisbaum, Ben Hyman, Cathy Raab, Jerry Bloom, Ralph Raphael, Harold Weisbaum, Rabbi Franken, Theresa Nicol, Rebecca Margolis, Jonah Giuliano and Maya Raynes. As always, our appreciation and gratitude to Mark Giuliano for his enthusiasm on the piano and Steve Wigler and Lewis Jones who accompanied him. And without a doubt, an enormous thank you to the master of this symphony, Nancy Savage, without whom the event would not have happened.



Marc Hartstein, President

Welcome to our Newest Member

Mary Levitt

From Our Director of Education and Engagement



As a Jewish educator and biblical enthusiast, the buzz surrounding Darren Aronofsky's depiction of the biblical flood story in his new film, *Noah*, certainly piqued my interest. Like many Jewish children, I grew up visualizing Noah as a sweet old man with a long white beard (he was, after all, 600 years old) who worked with his family to construct a giant boat large enough to house every animal on earth. So to hear that Russell Crowe, the same guy who starred as a Roman combatant in *Gladiator*, was to play the role of Noah was an intriguing thought to say the least.

Though the film was thoroughly entertaining and included some pretty nifty special effects, it was clear that Aronofsky took some serious creative liberties in writing and directing *Noah*. Without delving into specifics (don't want to spoil anything!), there were quite a few "subplots" and critical characters woven into the fabric of this depiction of the biblical flood epic. Moreover, Noah is hardly depicted as the calm, righteous old man Jewish children have come to love. On the contrary, we are presented with a troubled individual who is confronted with the challenge of a lifetime and is forced to make some difficult decisions along the way. Yet, as the credits were rolling, I found myself dying to discuss the themes and messages that were ever-present throughout the movie. How could I have been so interested in discussing a motion picture that significantly deviated from the "original script?"

In teaching the stories of the Torah to others, I have found myself less interested in recent years in portraying the specifics of the narrative and far more concerned with the values and ethics found in each story. Several years ago, I found myself engaged in a discussion with a rabbi regarding whether the stories in the Torah actually took place. While she maintained a strong sense of skepticism that the stories themselves truly occurred at some point as depicted in their present form, the lessons and morals that we as Jews are to extract from the Torah are, themselves, true. Whether one believes or does not believe a particular event or incident took place, many times, the moral of the story is of equal or even greater importance than seeking to explore the story's authenticity.

I believe this is what makes the teachers in our school so special—their ability to encourage the students to think deeper and grapple with the messages of the Torah and its stories. Each educator at Bolton Street has his or her own unique method through which to achieve this goal, but at the end of the day, I can say with full confidence that these children come out thinking about their Jewish identity and heritage in a richer, fuller and positive way. It is what makes our religious school stand out as the excellent institution that it truly is.

Though Aronofsky may not have gone "by the book" with *Noah*, his exploration into the very soul of Noah causes one to really think about the inner turmoil we all may face when confronted with a particular situation. If nothing else, it sure gives us something to ponder and discuss, indeed the mark of a solid film.

Best,
Mickey Rubin
Director of Education and Engagement, Bolton Street Synagogue
Mrubin@boltonstreet.org

Mitzvah Projects

A Message from Amanda Levey: Reach Out & Read Book Drive

Hi everyone - My name is Amanda Levey and my Mitzvah Project is a book drive for the nonprofit program Reach Out & Read. Reach Out & Read is a program that sends new and gently used books to doctor's offices and hospitals so little kids can get a chance to have their parents read to them aloud. Studies show that kids that had parents read to them frequently as a child had a stronger reading skill level. If you have any used books that are still in good condition that you would like to donate you can put them in a box that will be at Bolton Street Synagogue. Thank You.

A Message from Joe Urban re: Julian's Bar Mitzvah Project

My 12-year old son, Julian, will be making his Bar Mitzvah this year. For his project he will be collecting old, used and unwanted computers from individuals and organizations and refurbishing them. He will then be volunteering with and donating them to the computer for kids Maryland program where when finished, they will be delivered to needy schools, students and their families. If you have any unused or tired equipment collecting dust in the corner please contact me. Julian and his father (Joe Urban) will be happy to arrange a pickup – you can contact Joe at joe@sportsmemories.us.

Below is a list of equipment we are accepting.

Here are the types of equipment and parts we accept (we really need starred items!):

- Desktop Computers, Laptop Computers (please include power cord!)
- CRT Monitors • Flatscreen (LCD) Monitors
- Keyboards • Mice • Routers
- Hard Drives (both internal and external)
- Cables (any - USB, VGA, Ethernet, FireWire, Serial, etc.)
- Power Cords (laptop chargers especially!!!)
- Memory Cards, PCI Cards (expansion cards), USB Sticks

We can accept most any piece of electronic equipment.

However, we do ask that it meet the following standards:

- Computers must be from 1995 or later.
- Monitors must be entirely operational (we cannot refurbish these). If you have a monitor to discard, please see the state Department of the Environment's guidelines on electronics disposal and recycling.
- Hard Drives cannot be physically damaged.
- Memory and PCI cards must be operational (broken memory or PCI cards put into computers can cause the motherboards to die).
- USB Sticks must be operational (we cannot refurbish these).

Julian is very excited to work on this project and we thank you in advance of your consideration.

A Message from Nathaniel Lechtzin:

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

Hello, my name is Nathaniel Lechtzin. I am in the Bolton Street Zayin class this year. For my Mitzvah Project, I am recycling batteries from now until May 2014. At this time I am only collecting dry cell batteries, which includes AA, AAA, C, D, 9V etc... Please place any used batteries you have in the buckets provided by the upper and lower lobby doors and they will be disposed of in a greener way for our environment. *Thank you.*

Contributions

Library and Lifelong Learning Fund

Ruth and Paul Rosenberg in memory of Ruth's parents, Annie and Samuel Sterling

Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Russ and Leslie Seid Margolis in memory of Russ' father, Edward Margolis and Leslie's father, Paul Seid

Steve Preactor, Brynn, Jessica and Valerie in fond memory of Gayle Hafner, congregant and friend

Ethel Zelenske in memory of Gayle Hafner

Mike Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund

Scott Feeser and Elisabeth Liebow

Alyssa Sapia in honor of the b'nai mitzvah of Emma Conn and Max Gadsden

Hya Heine in memory of her parents, Celia and Harry Levine

Gayle Hafner and Crosby King in honor of Max Gadsden becoming a bar mitzvah

Russ, Leslie, Pazy and Rebecca Margolis in memory of Gayle Hafner

Sheila Thaler in memory of Gayle Hafner

Lissa Abrams in memory of Gayle Hafner

Music and Worship Fund

Andy, Dawn and Caroline Cohen in honor of Rabbi Franken

Judi and Howard Forer in honor of Leslie Margolis as co-recipient of COPAA's 2014 Diane Lipton Award

Steve Preactor, Brynn, Jessica and Valerie Berman in loving memory of Steve's uncle, Melvin Berman

Operating Fund

Lyn Watner in memory of her grandparents, Celia and Harry Levine

Damie and Diane Stillman in memory of Diane's father, Solomon Brandt

Joyce Moskovitz, Jeffrey Stern and Hannah and Jacob Stern in memory of Joyce's mother, Ida Moskovitz

Jerry, Hannah and Molly Bloom in memory of Susan Bloom, sister of Jerry and aunt to Hannah and Molly

Judi and Howard Forer wishing Russ Margolis a speedy recovery

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Russ and Leslie Margolis in honor of the Bolton Street community for its support of our family during Russ' recent illness

David Meyers and Roberta Strickler in memory of David's father, Leon M. Meyers

Description of Special Supplemental Funds

Building Fund

Our House of Worship is the fulfillment of a dream, actively serving the congregation and our community at large. Built in 2003, our building has brought tremendous pride and unity to our members. Your contribution to the BSS Building Fund will help keep our facility in tiptop shape.

Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is our call to action as Jews. At BSS, we take this commitment seriously, running energetic and robust social action initiatives throughout the year. Your contribution to the BSS Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund provides the extra dollars needed to help us carry out our community-wide service to those in need.

Bolton Street Synagogue Operating Fund

The cost of running BSS is only partially covered by membership dues; the rest comes from other sources, such as fundraising. Your support of the BSS Operating Fund provides added stability as we meet the challenging fiscal needs of running a professionally-staffed synagogue.

Music and Worship Fund

The beauty of our service is enhanced by our ability to accentuate prayer with music and song. Your support of this spirited aspect of our BSS worship and musical programs will be inspiring.

President's Discretionary Fund

Serving as President requires a significant commitment of time and energy. It is also a role filled with uncertainty and steadfast devotion to our mission while becoming intimate with the challenges and opportunities that are part of our growing BSS family. The President's Discretionary Fund provides the president with the extra means to respond to certain unforeseen circumstances that may require an immediate response.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Every synagogue has a Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund provides the Rabbi with additional resources to help a needy congregant or family in an emergency or provide that extra measure of funding needed to help ensure a worthy program or project can succeed. It also supports social justice, tikkun olam projects, and organizational advancement.

Mike Zabner Youth Scholarship Fund

Our children are our future. With your support of the BSS Youth Education Scholarship Fund, we will have the resources to support youth group programming, educational retreats and provide critical scholarships in support of a worthy youth seeking a Jewish camp or Israel travel experience.

Leadership Development Fund

The DNA of BSS lies in its heritage of congregational volunteerism. Your support of the Leadership Development Fund will help ensure that BSS will continue to invest in its leadership through educational retreats, seminars and programs.

Library And Lifelong Learning Fund

Providing our congregation with life long learning is a top priority for BSS. Your gift to the Library and Lifelong Learning Fund will underwrite special adult and family adult educational projects and the purchase of books, equipment and program materials. Special bookplates and naming opportunities are available.

Inspired by all that's happening at BSS? Please support our programs by making a contribution.

Acknowledge the Occasion Through Bolton Street Synagogue

First & Last Name(s) _____

If your contribution is from a couple or family, please list all names (use additional paper if necessary)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Date _____ Amount of Contribution _____

(\$18 minimum requested; please make checks payable to Bolton Street Synagogue)

In memory of In honor of In appreciation of

Send acknowledgement card to

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Fund Designation

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Library and Lifelong Learning Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Music and Worship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund | |

Wish List

- | | |
|--|--|
| \$5,000 for strategic initiatives | \$500 for Green ware (cups, plates, napkins) |
| \$3,000 to subsidize a family retreat | \$500 for Green energy credits to keep BSS carbon neutral for one year |
| \$3,000 for a scroll of the book of Esther and Casing | \$500 to sponsor a synagogue BBQ |
| \$3,000 for outreach to unaffiliated Jews in the community | \$360 for a "Shabbat Unplugged" service |
| \$2,500 for a youth retreat | \$250 for one month's Tot Shabbat program |
| \$1500 to purchase a defibrillator (AED) | \$180 to sponsor a subsidized catered Shabbat dinner |
| \$750 for one month of Friday Shabbat music | |

To fulfill a wish list item, mail a check payable to: Bolton Street Synagogue, 212 W. Cold Spring Lane, Balt., MD 21210. Donate online by credit card at www.boltonstreet.org. Please specify the item you are funding. Contributions will be recognized in future issues of the Chaverim, so please let us know if you prefer to donate anonymously. For more information, contact Debbie Barnes, Administrator, 410-235-5354 or dbarnes@boltonstreet.org.

Are you celebrating a special event or remembering a loved one?

Why not sponsor an

Oneg Shabbat

to mark the occasion?

Look for the sign-up sheet at the next oneg!

Contact Debbie Barnes in the Administrative office (410-235-5354) if you would like to sponsor or co-sponsor one of the above dates or if you would like more information.

Thank you to our recent oneg sponsors:

Lois Gould

Marni Greenspoon and Leslie Margolis

Rabbi Franken

April Gilkey and David Rachamim

Leslie and Russ Margolis

Eric and Shelly Levey

Dalet and Heh class parents

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May

1	Judith Berkowitz, Rae Herman, Amanda Levey	19	Andy Cohen, Ben Goldstein
		20	Julie Strouse
3	Jesse Carrey-Beaver, Debra Brown Felser & Gary Felser	21	Bill Reichel
		22	Elana Liebow Feeser
6	Toni Kline	23	Elaine Richman & Ralph Raphael
8	Hannah Kass	25	Dawn Cohen
10	Anne Hamburger	28	Matthew Chen
11	Gabrielle Riess	29	Zipporah Diamond, Max Gitlin
12	Shoshana Brody, Luke Hartstein	30	Susan Baron
14	Ken Karpay, Kyle Pascale	31	Don Allen, Julia Citron
16	Benjamin Hyman, Jonathan Weisbaum		

June

1	Karen & Bob Brown, Cindi & Justin King, Sharon Krevor Weisbaum & Harold Weisbaum	19	Paul and Ruth Rosenberg, Joey Raynes and Sandy Gold Raynes
		20	Dana Johnson & Salem Reiner, Rabbi Franken
4	Megan Murphy	21	Rachel Cohen
5	Kevin Pascale, Noah and Laura Lechtzin	23	Lila Sheingate
6	Lois Gould	25	Judith & Bernard Berkowitz, Zane Young
8	Hannah Hartstein	26	Evelyn Gilstein
9	Aidan Cohen	28	Brynn Berman and Steve Preactor
11	Julie Gilbert	29	Bill Van Besien
12	Brooke Axel, Peggy Brennecke	30	Russell and Leslie Seid Margolis, Julian Urban, Joyce and Carl Caplan
13	Nancy Savage		
15	Lynne Zheutlin, Marc Halushka		
17	Joyce Caplan		

Yahrzeits

May

1	Tony Lupien, husband of Miram Lupien	1	Iyar
3	Philip Dier, father of Jeff Dier	3	Iyar
3	Alexander Kleinman, father of Sheila Sachs	3	Iyar
4	Madeline Zuelle, mother of Helen Reichel	4	Iyar
5	Robert S. Berns, father of Peter Berns	5	Iyar
10	Harold Klivans, father of Sandra Hess	10	Iyar
14	Howard Jachman, husband of Wendy Jachman	14	Iyar
19	Louise Myerberg, mother of Wendy Jachman	19	Iyar
28	Albert Richman, father of Elaine Richman	28	Iyar
28	Constance F. Tallarico, mother of Pat Gilstein	28	Iyar
30	Stanley Krohn, uncle of Lissa Abrams	1	Sivan

June

5	Babette K. Stern, mother of Jeffrey Stern	7	Sivan
6	Lloyd Watner, husband of Hya Heine and father of Lyn Watner	8	Sivan

7	Mary Ann Siedner, mother of Karen Brown	9	Sivan
7	Leo Grossman, father of Glenn Grossman	9	Sivan
9	Henry H. Krevor, father of Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum	11	Sivan
10	Maurice Rubin, father of Amy Rubin	12	Sivan
11	Bernice Herz, sister of Judith Berkowitz	13	Sivan
14	Vickie Brown, friend of Lyn Watner	16	Sivan
15	Chaim Zelenske, father of Ethel Zelenske	17	Sivan
18	Edwin Raab, father of Cathy Raab	20	Sivan
18	Bobbe Karpay, mother of Ken Karpay	20	Sivan
20	Fanita Damie Stillman, mother of Damie Stillman	22	Sivan
21	Lenore Berman, mother of Lewis Berman	23	Sivan
22	Bertram Bildner, father of Rachelle Axel	24	Sivan
23	Frank Siedner, father of Karen Brown	25	Sivan
25	Craig Rubinstein, nephew of Alan Rubinstein	27	Sivan
25	Nanette Raab, mother of Cathy Raab	27	Sivan

Bring your expertise, hobby, or interest to Bolton Street!

The Adult Education Committee is seeking congregants who would like to lead an activity of interest to them and related to the mission of BSS. We can help with publicity and logistics. A few examples:

- Speak to the congregation about your past or present experiences, expertise, interests, plans etc.
- Show a movie and lead a discussion.
- Start a book club—you choose what, when, and where. Yiddish literature? Contemporary Israeli authors? History? Jews and sports?
- Launch an informal discussion group: Politics, food, theology?
- Organize a tour: Jewish Baltimore, Philadelphia, NY?
- Teach a seminar
- Teach a cooking class
- Host a guest lecturer

Contact Russ Margolis, rmargoli@jhmi.edu, if these or any other idea strikes your fancy.

Bolton Street Food Insecurity Team by Adam Sheingate



This year, members of the Bolton Street community have begun a conversation about food insecurity. Many of us are aware of the challenges Americans face securing access to healthy, affordable food for their families and themselves. The problem is especially acute in Baltimore where more than twenty percent of residents lack regular access to food and thirty-five percent of city residents receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. But facts and figures do not fully convey the experience of hunger, nor do they point the direction forward.

Concerned about hunger in our community, a number of us have formed the Bolton Street Food Insecurity Team. Our goal is to become better educated about the issue of food insecurity and find ways that we can help our neighbors, as well as members of our own community, who may not have enough to eat or have regular access to healthy food. Food pantries and other forms of assistance provide essential help in Baltimore and elsewhere, but charity can only go so far. Therefore, one of the aims of the Bolton Street Food Insecurity Team is to discuss how we as a congregation might advocate on behalf of programs and policies that can help the hungry.

With this aim in mind, we sought to learn more about the issue of food security. Together, we watched a documentary, *A Place at the Table*, which provides a powerful look at hunger in America. We also read and discussed the many policies at the federal,

state, and local level that address food insecurity. Some of the most innovative policies are happening right here in Baltimore, and we were fortunate to have the city's Food Policy Director, Holly Freishstat, join us at Bolton Street for a Sunday morning conversation about the exciting initiatives underway and the many challenges that still exist. In the coming weeks, we plan to meet with representatives from Maryland Hunger Solutions to learn about their work advocating on behalf of better nutrition for Maryland families and children.

What role should Bolton Street Synagogue play in fighting food insecurity? To help us address this question, a representative from Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger will visit our synagogue to talk with us about the importance of education and advocacy in addressing food insecurity. Working with synagogues around the country, Mazon has helped congregations find their voice and serve as a catalyst for change in policy and build a constituency on behalf of those who struggle to put food on the table.

We invite all members of the congregation to join our conversation. We are a community rich in insights and expertise, and we look forward to speaking with our membership on this important issue. We especially encourage anyone wishing to get more involved to contact the Bolton Street Food Insecurity Team directly, adam.sheingate@jhm.edu.

Adam Sheingate, a member of the BSS Food Insecurity Team, is Associate Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University. Among other things, he writes about food and agriculture policy.

Stoop Storytelling Series by Mark Hyman

The **Stoop Storytelling Series** has staged its popular shows at many of Baltimore's top venues: Artscape, Center Stage and the Meyerhoff Concert Hall. Now Bolton Street Synagogue has joined the list.

On April 5, Stoop and Bolton Street presented, "It's Complicated: The Joys and Oys of Contemporary Jewish Life." The evening of food, music and storytelling attracted more than 300 members, friends and Stoop fans – a sellout. Proceeds from the event will benefit educational programs at Bolton Street Synagogue.

Bolton Street members Steve Snyder and Greg Abel were among six featured guests to tell a five-minute story. Others were Deborah Weiner, WBAL-TV news anchor; Marion Winik, Baltimore-based author and commentator; devoted Orioles fan Ira Gewanter and Lois Blum Feinblatt, a sex therapist and lifelong Baltimore resident.

Each story revealed a side of contemporary Jewish experience. Lois Feinblatt, at age 93, spoke of the changes in her lifetime in religious tolerance. Years ago, she told the audience, Jews did not live on the east side of Baltimore and a synagogue on Cold Spring Lane would not have been a possibility. But, she added, the city has become a more welcoming place.

Marion Winik's story was of her ancestor, Hyman, who immigrated from Kiev to Australia as a stowaway and of his many adventures in later years. Ira Gewanter charmed the audience with the joys and oys of being an Orioles fan while respecting the rules in his parents' orthodox home. In her engaging story, Deborah Weiner explained her challenges as a young Jewish news reporter working in South Carolina.

Steve Snyder and Greg Abel told show-stopping stories. Steve, a longtime Bolton Street member, spoke about a Saturday afternoon when, on a visit to Baltimore's Leakin Park, he was struck by lightning. Although Steve had been an observant Jew, the experience turned him toward Judaism in a new way. Greg's story recounted his days living in Washington in the 1990s and a memorable blind date with a young woman who had worked as a White House intern. Several months later, Greg glimpsed a newspaper headline – Sex Scandal Rocks the White House – and realized that his dinner with Monica Lewinsky had been no ordinary date.

Greg's story was such a hit that it was featured on WYPR's "The Signal." His story – and the tales of all the storytellers – can be heard at the Stoop Storytelling Web site www.stoopstorytelling.com.

The evening began with a reception in the synagogue social hall. Guests noshed on delectables provided by The Pantry Catering and bid on more than seventy items up for grabs in a Silent Auction. These items included a week's stay in a beachfront vacation home, a dozen bagels a month for a year provided by the Roland Park Bagel Company and – one of the most sought-after prizes – lunch with Nobel Prize winner and Bolton Street Synagogue member Adam Riess. The Lot's More Swing Trio, featuring Bolton Street member Mark Giuliano, set a festive tone with live music.

The Stoop Storytelling Committee wishes to thank all those whose hard work and generosity made this special evening possible. This includes event sponsors, committee members and, of course, the storytellers.

May 2014

1	7:00 p.m.	BSS and Repair the World present a film screening: <i>Inequality for All</i>
2	5:45 p.m.	<i>Got Shabbat?</i> Art Project
	6:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Franken with guest song leader, Cory Hermann
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Got Shabbat?</i> dinner – open to all congregants
	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Franken with guest song leader, Cory Hermann
3	7:00 p.m.	BSS Film Festival – <i>Out in the Dark</i> ; program includes Havdalah, food, film and discussion (\$5)
4	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
	11:30 a.m.	Israel Memorial/Independence Day Assembly
9	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Franken and Cantorial Soloist Judith Daniel
10	9:30 a.m.	<i>Taking Hold of Torah</i> with Rabbi Franken
11	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
16	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service w/Shir Chadash
17	9:30 a.m.	<i>Taking Hold of Torah</i> with Rabbi Franken
	7:00 p.m.	BSS Film Series – <i>The Flat</i> – program includes Havdalah, food, film and discussion (\$5)
18	9:30 a.m.	Last Day of Religious School, Graduation and Picnic
19	7:00 p.m.	Board meeting
23	6:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service
26		Memorial Day – Office closed
	12:00 p.m.	Picnic – Interfaith Community of Roland Park
30	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service
31	9:30 a.m.	<i>Taking Hold of Torah</i> with Rabbi Franken
	7:00 p.m.	BSS Film Series – <i>The Gatekeepers</i> – program includes Havdalah, food, film and discussion (\$5)

June 2014

4		Shavuot – First Day
5	7:30 a.m.	Shavuot – Festival morning/Yizkor service
		Admin office closed
6	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service
7	5:00 p.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Berns-Zieve
8	10:30 a.m.	Annual meeting/Picnic
13	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat outdoor evening service with Judith Daniel
14	10:00 a.m.	Shabbat morning service and Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Reiner
20	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat outdoor evening service – w/Shir Chadash led by Cantorial Soloist Judith Daniel
23 – July 4		BSS Journey to Israel
27	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service

Torah Readers Needed for High Holy Days

The Religious Culture Committee is looking for interested congregants to read Torah for the High Holy days. For those interested, we will have a study group with a tutor to prepare our Torah readers. The plan is to begin in May and develop a group of committed learners. If you are interested, please contact Irving Reti at imreti@jhmi.edu or Debbie Barnes at dbarnes@boltonstreet.org.

Event Space Available

BSS has a wonderful space available for rent to congregants, their family and friends. Please spread the word to any non-profit organizations that you think may be interested. For information, contact Debbie Barnes at 410-235-5354 or dbarnes@boltonstreet.org.